



Austro-Hungarian
Orders, Medals and Decorations
Volume II: Pre-1848 Awards
Part VII, 1792-1804



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Introduction



The rule of Franz II, Later Franz I can be divided into two parts. During the first part of his reign Franz ruled Austria as the Holy Roman Emperor, Archduke of Austria and King of Hungary. In 1804 Franz decided that there was no future for him or his empire if he tried to continue ruling as Franz II Holy Roman Emperor. Because of the threat that Napoleon represented to the Holy Roman Empire Franz decided to abdicate the imperial throne and to assume the title of Emperor of Austria as Franz I. This he did in 1804. Thus he ruled Austria during the second portion of his reign as Franz I Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Archduke of Austria and King of Bohemia. This section will cover the awards issued from 1792 to 1804. This document will only concern itself with medals that were listed to reward military accomplishments or services rendered in support of the empire that were of a military nature.



Picture attributed to The Habsburgs
Portrait of a Dynisty , Edward
Crankshaw





Commemoration Medal for Volunteers of the Netherlands Province (Erinnerungsmedaille für Freiwillige aus der Niederländisch Provinz)



Images attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

Date Issued: 1792

Reason Issued: As a reward for Dutch citizens who volunteered to serve in the allied forces or who had rendered support to the Austrian Army in the war against the French Republic. The Gold Medal was given for bravery and the silver for merit.

Classes or Types: Two

- Gold Medal
- Silver Medal

Interesting Facts: None known

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An octagonal medal with an attached large ball shaped suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: The bust of Emperor Franz II, facing to the viewers right, with a laurel wreath on his head inscribed: **FRANCOIS II. EMP. DES ROM. ROI DE HONG. ET. DE. BOH.** Translation: Franz II. Roman Emperor, King of Hungary and Bohemia. The edge of the octagonal medal is raised and inside it is a fine line which follows the edge of the medal.

Reverse: An inscription in six lines: **POUR / SERVICES / RENDUS / AUX / ARMEES / MDCCXCII.** Translation: For services rendered in the army 1792. Around the inscription is a laurel wreath, which is tied at the bottom with a ribbon.



Images attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac





Commemoration Medal for Volunteers of the Netherlands Province
(Erinnerungsmedaille für Freiwillige aus der Niederländisch Provinz)



Weight:

- Gold Medal: Unknown
- Silver Medal: 13.5 grams

Size: 33 mm in diameter for both medals

Type of Material: Gold and silver

Variations:

- Type I Dutch Volunteers Commemoration Medal: As described above
- Type II: As described above in Zinc and without a suspension eye (May be a copy)

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Hauptmunzamt Wien (Vienna Mint)

Number Issued:

- Gold Medals: 25
- Silver Medals: 50

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: a 40 mm wide crimson-red ribbon

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Emperor Franz II Honor and Merit Medal (Emperors Franz II Ehren und Verdienstmedaille)



Date Issued: July 14, 1792-1804

Reason Issued: Issued to members of the Emperor's suite on the occasion of his coronation as the German Emperor at Frankfurt on Main on July 14, 1792

Classes or Types: There are seven classes of the Type I medals and 4 classes of the Type II Medals

Type I medals:

- Large Gold Medal
- Gold Medal, first class
- Gold Medal, second class
- Gold Medal, third class
- Silver Medal, first class
- Silver Medal, second class
- Silver Medal, third class

Type II medals:

- Large Gold Medal
- Gold Medal
- Large Silver Medal
- Silver Medal

Interesting Facts:

- The grade of the medal received was determined by the rank of the recipient
- The Large Gold Medal was worn on a gold "chain mail" chain of a weight equal to the weight of the medal on special occasions
 - Austrians Bohemians and Hungarians received this medal each with a different reverse
 - None of the small silver medals are known to exist

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and with an attached round flat eye.





Emperor Franz II Honor and Merit Medal (Emperors Franz II Ehren und Verdienstmedaille)



Obverse:

- **Type I:** The bust of Franz II, facing to the viewers right. He is portrayed with long wavy hair in which is a laurel wreath near the temples. Paralleling the rim around the upper three-fourths of the medal is a circular inscription: **IMP. CAES. FRANCISCVS II. P. F. AVG.** Translation: Franz II the pious, fortunate, noble. At the bottom of the medal below the bust of the emperor is the maker's name: **I. N. Wirt. F.** (The F stands for fabrikat, (fabricated)).
- **Type II:** The bust of Franz II, facing to the right. He is portrayed with long wavy hair in which is a laurel wreath near the temples. Paralleling the rim around the upper three-fourths of the medal is a circular inscription: **FRANCISCVS. HVNG. BOH. REX. ARCHID. AVST. M. D. HETR.** Translation: Francis Hungarian, Bohemian, King, Archduke of Austria. At the bottom of the medal below the bust of the emperor is the makers name: **I. N. Wirt. F.** (The F stands for fabrikat, (fabricated)).



Reverse:

- **Type I:** As Issued to Austrians it has on the upper edge of the medal the inscription: **LEGE ET FIDE.** Translation: Law and fidelity, below which is the German Crown of the Roman Emperor (Imperial Crown), in the middle of the medal are the crossed coronation sword and scepter along with the orb on top of a pallium.





Emperor Franz II Honor and Merit Medal (Emperors Franz II Ehren und Verdienstmedaille)



Reverse:

- **Type II:** As Issued to Bohemians it has on the upper edge of the medal the inscription: **LEGE ET FIDE**: Translation: Law and fidelity, below which is the Bohemian lion with his left paw resting on a shield with the Austrian coat of arms upon it and his right foreleg raised with a pontifical cross in it. Upon his head the lion wears the Bohemian crown.
- **Type III:** As Issued to Hungarians it has on the upper edge of the medal the inscription: **PIETATE ET CONCORDIA**. Translation: Piety and Piece, below which is the Bohemian lion with his left paw resting on a shield with the Austrian coat of arms upon it and his right foreleg raised with a pontifical cross in its paw. Upon his head the lion wears the Bohemian crown.

Weight:

Type I medals:

- Large Gold Medal: 24 Ducats (84 grams)
- Gold Medal, first class: 17 Ducats (63 grams)
- Gold Medal, second class: 8 Ducats (28 grams)
- Gold Medal, third class: 6 Ducats (21 grams)
- Silver Medal, first class: 35 grams
- Silver Medal, second class: 25 grams
- Silver Medal, third class: 20 grams

Type II medals:

- Large Gold Medal: 24 Ducats (84 grams)
- Gold Medal: 11 Ducats (42 grams)
- Large Silver Medal: 35 grams
- Silver Medal: 25 grams

Type III medals: Unknown





Emperor Franz II Honor and Merit Medal (Emperors Franz II Ehren und Verdienstmedaille)



Size:

Type I medals:

- Large Gold Medal: 49 mm diameter
- Gold Medal, first class: 49 mm diameter
- Gold Medal, second class: 43 mm diameter
- Gold Medal, third class: 36 mm diameter
- Silver Medal, first class: 49 mm diameter
- Silver Medal, second class: 43 mm diameter
- Silver Medal, third class: 36 mm diameter

Type II Medals:

- Large Gold Medal: 49 mm diameter
- Gold Medal: 43 mm diameter
- Large Silver Medal: 49 mm diameter
- Silver Medal: 43 mm diameter

Type III Medals: Unknown

Type of Material: Gold and Silver

Variations:

- **Type I medal:** As described above with the Type I obverse and Type I reverse





Emperor Franz II Honor and Merit Medal (Emperors Franz II Ehren und Verdienstmedaille)



Variations:

- Type II medal: A medal with the Type II obverse and the Type II reverse featuring the Bohemian lion and the inscription **FIDE ET LEGE**. This is the medal that was issued for the coronation in Bohemia and Hungary.

Type III medal: A medal with the Type II obverse and the Type III reverse featuring the Bohemian lion and the inscription **PIETATE ET CONCORDIA**.

Type IV medal: As described above with the Type I obverse and the Type II reverse featuring the Bohemian lion and the inscription **FIDE ET LEGE**. This is the medal that was issued for the coronation in Bohemia and Hungary.





Emperor Franz II Honor and Merit Medal
(Emperors Franz II Ehren und Verdienstmedaille)



Variations:

- Type V medal As described above with the Type I obverse and the Type III reverse featuring the Bohemian lion and the inscription **PIETATE ET CONCORDIA**.

Designer: Johann Nepomuk Wirt

Manufacturer: Vienna Hauptmunzamt (Vienna Imperial Mint)

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: a 39-40 mm wide carmine-ribbon

Attachments: None

Miniature: Examples are known to exist



Miniature of the Type I gold medal





Franz II Honor Medal (Franz II Ehren Medaille)



Date Issued: 1792 – August 1805

Reason Issued: As a reward for NCOs at or below the rank of Feldwebel in the infantry and Wachtmeister in the cavalry and enlisted member of the armed forces for bravery in combat with an armed enemy

Classes or Types: Two

- Gold Honor Medal
- Silver Honor Medal

Interesting Facts:

- Issued for the war with France in 1792-1797
- Issued for the war with France in 1799-1802
- This medal could be awarded to Field Chaplains for supporting troops in battle. It is thus the antecedent to the Chaplains Cross which was introduced on November 23, 1801
- From 1789 to 1918 there were 30 different versions of the bravery medal. This is versions 3 and 4
- Awards were to be made by the commanding general
- This decoration in all of its variations was up to the issuance of the Karl Troop Cross in 1916 the most issued decoration in the armed forces
- The name for this type medal was changed to Bravery Medal in 1809
- Silver medal recipients received half their salary and gold medal twice their salary as a financial award
- Single recipients medals had to be returned upon their death
- After 1795 Kadetten, Fähnriches and Coronetts were eligible for the medal

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with an attached oval flat suspension eye.

Obverse: The bust of Emperor Franz II with long flowing hair facing to the viewers right, with a laurel wreath on his head. Above the bust is Inscribed **FRANZ .II.** Below the bust is inscribed **I.N.WIRT. F.** (The F stands for fabrikat, (fabricated). The medal has a raised edge.

Reverse: The reverse of the medal has four crossed flags and two crossed standards at the bottom. The two front flags can be seen through the leaves of the laurel wreath and appear to have the Austrian Coat of Arms (the barred shield), with an archdukes hat above it, the latter is also recognizable on the standard over which is superimposed a laurel wreath which is tied at the bottom with a bow. Within the wreath and above the flags are the words **DER TAPFERKEIT.** Translation: for bravery)

Images courtesy of Dorotheum





Franz II Honor Medal
(Franz II Ehren Medaille)



Weight:

- Gold Medal: 8 Ducats (28 grams)
- Silver Medal: 17-17.6 grams

Size: 40 mm in diameter for both medals

Type of Material: 986/1000 Gold and Silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Johann Nepomuk Wirt

Manufacturer: Vienna Hauptmunzamt (Vienna Imperial Mint)

Number Issued:

- Gold Medals

1792 = 39
1793 = 227
1794 = 125
1795 = 89
1796 = 76
1797 = 55
1799 = 102
1800 = 37
1801 = 3
1805 = 33

Total Gold Medals issued = 786

- Total Silver Medals issued = 2,362

Case: Unknown





Franz II Honor Medal (Franz II Ehren Medaille)



Case: Unknown

Ribbon:

- A 40 mm wide dark rose-red and white laddered ribbon with a 21 mm horizontal striped center portion and 4.5 mm red side stripes and 5 mm wide white edge stripes
- A ribbon with four 4 mm wide white stripes and three 8 mm red stripes for Military Field Chaplains who were awarded the medal for merit.

Attachments: A rectangular gold clasp with oak leaf borders on the top and bottom. Inside of a raised edge at the top and bottom is frame of laurel inside of which is a raised image of Emperor Franz II with long flowing hair and a laurel wreath on his head facing to the viewers right. These clasps were unofficial and worn instead of the medal on the medal ribbon in the button hole by recipients based on personal taste and preference.

Miniature: None known





Commemoration Medal for Volunteers of the Dutch Province
(Erinnerungsmedaille für Freiwillige aus der Niederländisch Provinz)



Date Issued: 1793

Reason Issued: As a reward for Dutch citizens who had demonstrated heroism while serving in the allied forces while supporting to the Austrian Army in the war against the French Republic.

Classes or Types: One, a Gold Medal

Interesting Facts: None known

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An octagonal medal with an attached ball shaped suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: The bust of Emperor Franz II, Facing to the viewers right, with a laurel wreath on his head. Inscribed **FRANCOIS II. EMP. DES ROM. ROI DE HONG. ET. BOH.** Translation Franz II. Roman Emperor, King of Hungary and Bohemia. The medal is octagonal, the edge is raised and inside it is a fine line, which follows the edge of the medal.

Reverse: An inscription in six lines: **POUR / SERVICES / RENDUES / AUX / ARMEES / MDCCXCIII**, translation for services rendered in the army 1793. Around the inscription is a laurel wreath, which is tied at the bottom with a ribbon.

Weight: Unknown

Size: 33 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: 4 Gold Medals

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: a 35 mm wide carmen-red ribbon

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Neerwinden Medal (Neerwinden Medaille)



Date Issued: 1793

Reason Issued: Issued by Francis II as a reward for officers under the command of Field Marshall and Prince Friedrich Josaias of Sax-Coberg who defeated the French under the command of General Dumouriez at the Battle of Neerwinden

Classes or Types: Two

Interesting Facts: None known

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with an attached suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: A bust of Prince Friedrich Josaias facing to the viewers right and wearing a laurel wreath on his head. Around the bust is the inscription: **FRIDERIC. JOSIAS. PRINC. SAXO. COB. S. R. I SUPR.**

BELLI. DUX. Translation: Friedrich Josaias Prince of Sax-Coberg outstanding leader in war. Below the bust is the maker's name: **BALDENBACH**

Reverse: A scene of a Roman legion above which is inscribed: **RESUTORI. BELGI. AUSPICE. AUGUSTO.** Translation: Restores Belgium to its auspicious glory. Below this inscription is inscribed in three lines: **GALIS MENSE MARTIO/ MDCCXCIII.UTROQUE/ BELGIO EXATIS.**

Weight:

- Gold Medal: Unknown
- Silver Medal: 27 grams

Size: 47 mm in diameter for both medals

Type of Material: Gold and silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Peter Baldenbach

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued:

- Gold Medals: 4
- Silver Medals: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Red

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Commemoration Medal for Volunteers of the Dutch Province
(Erinnerungsmedaille für Freiwillige aus der Niederländisch Provinz)



Date Issued: 1794

Reason Issued: As a reward for Dutch citizens who had volunteered to serve in the allied forces or who had rendered support to the Austrian Army in the war against the French Republic. The gold medal was given for bravery and the silver for merit.

Classes or Types: Two

- Gold Medal
- Silver Medal

Interesting Facts: None known

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An octagonal medal with an attached ball shaped suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: The bust of Emperor Franz II, Facing to the right, with a laurel wreath on his head inscribed **FRANCOIS II. EMP. DES ROM. ROI DE HONG. ET. BOH.** Translation Franz II. Roman Emperor, King of Hungary and Bohemia. The medal is octagonal, the edge is raised and inside it is a fine line, which follows the edge of the medal.

Reverse: An inscription in six lines: **POUR / SERVICES / RENDUES / AUX / ARMEES / MDCCXCIV**, translation: for services rendered in the army 1794. Around the inscription is a laurel wreath, which is tied at the bottom with a ribbon.

Weight:

- Gold Medal: Unknown
- Silver Medal: 13.5 grams

Size: 33 mm in diameter for both medals

Type of Material: Gold and Silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued:

- Gold Medals = 6
- Silver medals = 20

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: a 35 mm wide carmen-red ribbon

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Olmütz Military Medal (Olmütz Militärmedaille)



Date Issued: August 12, 1796

Reason Issued: This medal was issued by the Civil Board of the town of Olmütz as an award to ten of its citizens who at the request of the town council formed the Olmütz Volunteer Corp which served as a component of an Austrian Cheveau-Legers Regiment on August 12, 1796.

Classes or Types: Reported to be in One class. However three classes of the medal are known to exist although it is unclear as to whether they are all genuine

Interesting Facts: None known

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a pearled border and with an attached circular suspension eye at the top, which is perpendicular to the medal

Obverse: The bust of Emperor Franz II, facing to the viewers right, with long flowing hair and a laurel wreath on his head. Around the edge of the medal is an inscription in a frame composed of a fine line. The inscription reads: **MILITI ELLECTO CAESAREM ET PATRIAM DEFENDENTI**. Translation: The Soldiers chosen as the defenders of their Emperor and homeland. Below the bust is inscribed in two lines: **FII/R.I.S.A.** (Franciscus II Rex Imperator Semper Augustus) Translation: Franz II Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire

Reverse: An Olmütz eagle with shield on its breast on which are the letters **FMT** (FRANCISCVS MARIA THERESIA). This is the town coat of arms as modified in 1758. Around the eagle is the inscription: **SENATVS POPVLVSQVE OLOMUCENSIS**

AO 1796. Translation: Senate and People of Olmütz in the Year 1796.





Olmütz Military Medal (Olmütz Militärmedaille)



Weight: 38 grams

Size: 45 mm in diameter

Type of Material:

- Reported to be a silver medal by Mericka (see below right)
- Reported to be a silver gilt medal by Hessenthal/Schreiber

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: 10

Case: Unknown

Ribbon:

- According to Hessenthal/Schreiber the ribbon is yellow with narrow black edge stripes
- According to Mericka the ribbon is a 40 mm wide in black with 4 narrow yellow stripes (see previous page)

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Military Merit Medal for the Tyrolean Mobilization (Militärverdienstmedaille für das Tiroler Aufgebot)



Date Issued: August 12, 1796

Reason Issued: Issued by Emperor Franz II in 1796 to reward those Tyrolean's who took up arms and defended the Tyrol against the French when the emperor announced a mobilization on August 12, 1796

Classes or Types: Two

- Large Silver Medal
- Silver Medal

Interesting Facts:

- The larger silver medals were awarded to officers and the smaller to non-commissioned officers and all other military personnel
- This medal was also issued in the form of a table medal.

Hallmarks: None known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and a large flat attached circular suspension eye at the top

Obverse: The bust of Emperor Franz II, facing to the viewers right, with long flowing hair and a laurel wreath on his head. Around the edge of the medal is an inscription which reads: **FRANCISCVS. II. D. G. R. IMP. S. A. H. B. R. COMES. TIROLIS.** Translation: Francis II by the grace of God Roman Emperor, Apostolic King of Hungary, King of Bohemia Count of Tirol. Below the bust near the rim is inscribed the name of the medalist **I. N. Wirt F.** (The F stands for fabrikat, (fabricated).

Reverse: A laurel wreath tied at the bottom with a bow. Inside the wreath in five lines is inscribed: **PRO. FIDE. / PRINCIPE. / ET. PA-
TRIA / FORTITER. / PVGNANTI.** Translation: To the Heroic Faithful Soldiers Fighting for Prince and Fatherland. Between the outer edge of the wreath and the edge of the medal is inscribed **TIROLIS. AB. HOSTE. GALLO. VNDIQUE. PETITA.** Translation: Tyrol threatened on all sides by the French. At the bottom of the medal is the date **MDCCXCVI (1796)**



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Military Merit Medal for the Tyrolean Mobilization
(Militärverdienstmedaille für das Tiroler Aufgebot)



Weight:

- Large Silver Medal: 17.5 -18.5 grams
- Silver Medal: 12.8-13 grams

Size:

- Large Silver Medal: 40 mm in diameter
- Silver Medal: 35-36 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Johann Nepomuk Wirt

Manufacturer: Hauptmunzamt Wien (Vienna Mint)

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A 40 mm wide white ribbon with 7 mm wide, Ponceau (Poppy)-red middle stripe, bordered on each side by a thin black line, and with 6 mm wide dark-green edges.

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known



An unusual suspension



A closer view of the Obverse and
Suspension ring





Tyrolean Commemoration and Merit Decoration (Tiroler Erinnerungs und Verdienstdekoration)



Date Issued: July 9, 1797

Reason Issued: Issued by Emperor Franz II in 1797 to reward those Tyrolean's who took up arms in support of the Austrian army and who displayed exceptional bravery or merit in successfully defending the Tyrol against the French.

Classes or Types: Three

- Large Gold Medal for senior officers
- Gold Medal for officers
- Silver Medal Non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel

Interesting Facts:

- Receipt of this decoration exempted the recipient or his wife and children in the case of his death from taxes
- The large gold medals were unusually thick
- Only 3 of the large gold medals are known to exist
- In 1800 the large gold medal was awarded to the Royal and Imperial General Quartermaster, Feldzeugmeister (General), Johann Gabriel, Marquis von Chastler De Courcelles
- The Large gold medals were reserved for Corp commanders who were generals of the highest rank, gold medals were awarded to officers and the silver medals to all other military personnel
- These were the first medals to have an inscription in German

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and a large flat attached circular suspension eye at the top

Obverse: The bust of Emperor Franz II, facing to the viewers right, with long flowing hair and a laurel wreath on his head. Around the edge of the medal is an inscription which reads: **FRANZ.II. R. K. ERZH. ZU. OEST. GEF. GRAF. VON. TYROL.** Translation: Franz II Roman Emperor, Archduke

of Austria, Count of Tyrol. Below the bust is inscribed the name of the medalist **I.N. Wirt F.** (The F stands for fabrikat, (fabricated)).

Reverse: A laurel wreath tied at the bottom with a slender bow. Inside the wreath in six lines is inscribed: **DEN/TAPFEREN/VERTHEIDIGERN/DES/VATERLANDES/MDCCXCVII.** Translation: The courageous defenders of the fatherland 1797.





Tyrolean Commemoration and Merit Decoration (Tiroler Erinnerungs und Verdienstdekoration)



Weight:

- Large Gold Medal: 35 grams (10 Ducats)
- Gold Medal: 21 grams (6 Ducats)
- Silver Medal: 18 grams

Size:

- Large Gold Medal: 39 mm in diameter and 1.3 mm thick
- Gold Medal: 35 mm in diameter and 1.2 mm thick
- Silver Medal: 39 mm in diameter and 1.3 mm thick

Type of Material: Gold and Silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Johann Nepomuk Wirt

Manufacturer: Hauptmunzamt Wien (Vienna Mint)

Number Issued:

- Large Gold Medal = 3
- Gold Medal = 30

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: a 30-40 mm wide golden-yellow ribbon with three 7 mm wide black stripes which are about 8 mm apart. The ribbon also has a 7 mm golden yellow edge. Medals have also been reported on green and white ribbon.

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known

Close up of the Silver
Medal obverse



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Close up of the
Gold Medal ob-
verse and reverse





Military Merit Medal of the Lower Austrian Mobilization (Militärverdienstmedaille für das Niederösterreich Aufgebot)



Date Issued: April 28, 1797

Reason Issued: Issued by Emperor Franz II in 1797 to reward those persons who responded to Chancellor Count Saurau's call to the leaders of Lower Austrian cities in 1797 to mobilize volunteer units to repel the French Invasion. As a result of this appeal the cities of Lower Austria sent 17 battalions of infantry, 1 battalion of Jaegers, 2 Squadrons of cavalry and 450 other troops to the battlefield.

Classes or Types: Four

- Gold Medal (Highest Ranking Officers)
- Large Silver Medal (Commemorative medal for officers)
- Medium Silver Medal (Commemorative medal for lower ranking officers and non-commissioned officers)
- Small Silver Medal (Commemorative medal for enlisted personnel)

Interesting Facts:

- Receipt of this decoration exempted the recipient or his wife and children in the case of his death from taxes
- The gold medal was awarded to Count Saurau, Duke of Wurttemberg who commanded the mobilized troops, some district chiefs and high level government officials
- No examples of the small silver medal for soldiers is known to exist and therefore may never have been struck
- Cast Iron and small silver examples of this medal are reputed to have been struck, however, no contemporary examples of the cast iron medals are known to exist
- The Lower Austrian contingent consisted of 17 battalions of infantry, 1 Jager battalion and 2 squadrons of cavalry, as well as the Standkorps of 450 persons.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and a large flat attached circular suspension eye at the top





Military Merit Medal of the Lower Austrian Mobilization (Militärverdienstmedaille für das Niederösterreich Aufgebot)



Image from Pinterest

Obverse: The bust of Emperor Franz II, facing to the viewers right, with long flowing hair and a laurel wreath on his head. Around the edge of the medal is an inscription which reads: **FRANZ. II. ROM. KAI. ERZHERZOG. ZU. OESTERREICH.** Translation: Franz II Roman Emperor, Archduke of Austria. Below the bust is inscribed the name of the medalist **I.N. Wirt F.** (The F stands for fabrikat, (fabricated)).

Reverse: An oak wreath tied at the bottom with a bow. Inside the wreath in eight lines is inscribed: **DEN/BIEDEREN/SOEHNEN/OESTERREICHS/DES/LANDESVATERS/DANK/MDCCXCVII.** Translation: The Nation's Founders Give Thanks to its Loyal Sons 1797.

Weight:

- Gold Medal: 10 Ducats (35 grams)
- Large Silver Medal: 25 grams
- Medium Silver Medal: 17-20 grams
- Small Silver Medal: 18 grams

Size:

- Gold Medal: 41 mm in diameter
- Large Silver Medal: 41 mm in diameter
- Medium Silver Medal: 39.6 mm in diameter
- Small Silver Medal: 37 mm



Image from Pinterest





Military Merit Medal of the Lower Austrian Mobilization
(Militärverdienstmedaille für das Niederösterreich Aufgebot)



Type of Material: Gold and Silver

Variations:

- In the old literature there is a description of a silver medal that could supposedly be purchased by enlisted men which had a diameter of 37 mm and which weighed 18 grams, however no known examples exist
- Medals of blackened steel that are 39-40 mm in diameter have been noted in the literature, however no known examples exist

Designer: Johann Nepomuk Wirt

Manufacturer: The Vienna Hauptmunzamt (The Vienna Mint)

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: There are two ribbons reported for this medal

- A 39-40 mm wide half white and half red ribbon is usually associated with this medal and is the one shown on the example on the previous page.
- An alternate ribbon for this medal which was made by Kanel and Praller has been reported by J. Lauber and others that is 40 mm wide and is black, yellow, black.

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known



Image courtesy of Dorotheum





Honor Medal for English Cavalrymen (Ehrenmedaille für Englische Kavalleristen)



Date Issued: Established in 1794 and issued on May 1, 1798, (King George's III gave permission to wear the medals on this date).

Reason Issued: To reward eight officers of the British 15th Royal Light Dragoon Regiment who distinguished themselves in heroically carrying out a cavalry charge against a numerically superior enemy at the Battle of Villers-en-Cauchies on April 24, 1794. This charge was viewed personally by Emperor Franz II who believed he was threatened by the French troops the British attacked.

Classes or Types: One, gold medals as described which were awarded to British cavalry officers

Interesting Facts:

- Emperor Franz I personally conferred the medals on each recipient
- Eight British Officers received the medal. They were:
 1. Captain (later Colonel) William Aylett
 2. Captain (later Major) Robert Pocklington
 3. Captain (later Major) Edward Michael Ryan
 4. Lieutenant (later Major) Thomas Granby Calcraft
 5. Lieutenant (later Major) William G. Keir
 6. Cornet (later Major) Edward G. Butler
 7. Cornet (later Major) Robert Wilson
 8. Cornet (later Captain) Thomas Burrell Blunt
- There were one (some sources say) two examples of the gold medal known to exist in the 1960s
- A silver gilt medal was later awarded by the British to the non-commissioned officers
- The eight recipients of this medal were awarded the Order of Maria Theresa knight badges on November 7, 1800 on the occasion of the 64th conferral of the order. King George gave permission for these officers to accept the rank of Knight of the Imperial Order of Maria Theresa, and to wear the insignia of the order
- When the recipients of the Villers-en-Cauchies medals were awarded the Order of Maria Theresa one of the conditions of the award was that they would no longer wear the Villers En Couche medals. They were however allowed to keep them to commemorate their heroism.
- There was a table medal issued in 1794 to commemorate the establishment of these medals





Honor Medal for English Cavalrymen (Ehrenmedaille für Englische Kavalleristen)



The ninth original gold medal produced without a suspension eye and used for display purposes

Interesting Facts (Continued):

- Sir Robert Wilson one of the recipients of the medal who had received the knight's cross of the Order of Maria Theresia in 1800 also received the commander of the Order of Maria Theresia in 1815

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and a round flat suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: The bust of Emperor Franz II, facing to the viewers right, with long flowing hair and a laurel wreath on his head. Above the bust is inscribed: **IMP. CAES. FRANCISCVS. II. P. F. AVG.** Translation: Emperor Franz II. the Pious, Fortunate, Sublime. Below the bust is the name of the medalist: **I. N. Wirt F.** (The F stands for fabrikat, (fabricated).

Reverse: On a plain field above two crossed laurel boughs is a four line inscription: **FORTI. BRITANNO. / IN. EXERCITV. FOED. / AD CAMERACVM. / XXIV. APR. / MDCCXCIV.** Translation: The Brave Britons, in the Allied Army, near Chambray, on 24 April 1794. Below the inscription are two crossed laurel boughs.

Weight:

- Medal with chain: 80 ducats (280 g, 9.87 oz.)
- Medal: 40 ducats (140 g, 4.93 oz.)
- Chain: 40 ducats (140 g, 4.93 oz.)

Size: 60 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold, silver gilt, bronze and pewter.

Variations:

- **Type I Medal:** A gold medal as described above
- **Type II Medal:** A silver gilt version issued by the British government to Non-commissioned officers who were present at the Battle of Villers-en-Cauchies on April 24, 1794.
- **Type II Medal:** Silver unofficial examples are known to exist which were struck in the first half of the 20th century for the collector market and for display purposes. They are the same as the type one medal except in silver.
- Bronze unofficial examples are known to exist which were struck in the first half of the 20th century for the collector market and for display purposes. They are the same as the type one medal except in bronze.
- **Type III:** Pewter unofficial examples are known to exist which were struck in the first half of the 20th century for the collector market and for display purposes. They are the same as the type one medal except in pewter.





Honor Medal for English Cavalrymen
(Ehrenmedaille für Englische Kavalleristen)



Image courtesy of Dorotheum

Designer: Johann Nepomuk Wurth, Chief Engraver of the Vienna Mint (also known as Johann Nepomuk Wirth)

Manufacturer: Vienna Hauptmünzamt (Vienna Mint)

Number Issued: Eight (a 9th medal was struck without suspension eye to be kept at the Imperial Chancellery).

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: None, the medal was worn on a gold “chain mail” chain composed of double interlinked rings

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





West Galician Commemoration Medal
(Medaille zur Huldigung von Westgalizien)



Date Issued: August 17, 1796

Reason Issued: This medal was authorized to commemorate the celebration in Krakow on August 17, 1796 at which the people of Western Galicia swore an oath of elegance to Emperor Franz II.

Classes or Types: One in the form of a silver medal

Interesting Facts:

- The representative of the emperor at this celebration was Prince Karol von Auersperg.
- This change in elegance was brought about by the third partition of Galicia in 1795
- The main ceremony took place in St. Mary's church where thousands of nobles, representatives of the middle class and academia swore homage to the emperor.
- This medal was issued in both a wearable and non-wearable form.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and an attached flat round eye.

Obverse: The bust of Emperor Franz II, facing to the viewers right, with long flowing hair and a laurel wreath on his head. Around the edge of the medal is an inscription which reads: **IMP. CAES. FRANCISCO II. HVNG. BOH. GAL. ET. LOD. REGI**

Translation: Franz II, Emperor and King of Hungary, Bohemia, Galicia and LOD. Below the bust is inscribed the name of the medalist **I.N.Wirt F.** (The F stands for fabrikat, (fabricated)).





West Galician Commemoration Medal
(Medaille zur Huldigung von Westgalizien)



Reverse: A plain background on which is inscribed in six lines **FIDES / GALICIAE SECUNDAE / IVREIVR OBSTRICTA / CRACOVIAE / DIE XVII AVGVSTI / MDCCXCVI**. Translation: The Lower Galician allegiance proclaimed at 4th Reiv at Krakow on the 17th of August 1796

Weight:

- Silver Medal: 45.3 grams
- Tombak Medal: 2.61 grams

Size: All medals are 48.5 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Silver and Tombak



Variations: None known

Designer: Johann Nepomuk Wirt

Manufacturer: Vienna Hauptmunzamt (Mint Imperial Mint)

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: 40 mm wide Carmen Red

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Commemoration and Merit Medal for Dalmatians (Erinnerungs und Verdienstmedaille für Dalmatien)



Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

Date Issued: 1801

Reason Issued: This medal was authorized for military and civilian personnel for administrative merit and meritorious service in maintaining order in the kingdom of Dalmatia after it was ceded to Austria in 1797 by the piece of Campo Formio.

Classes or Types: Two

- Gold Medal
- Silver Medal

Interesting Facts: None known

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and an attached flat round eye.

Obverse: The bust of Emperor Franz II, facing to the viewers right, with long flowing hair and a laurel wreath on his head. Around the edge of the medal is an inscription which reads: **FRANCISCVS II. ROM. IMP. DALMATIAE REX**. Translation: Franz II, Roman Emperor, King of Dalmatia. Below the bust is inscribed the name of the medalist **I.N.Wirt F.** (The F stands for fabrikat, (fabricated)).

Reverse: A plain background on which is inscribed in two lines **DALMATIAE/ BENE MERENTI**. Translation: The Dalmatians Deserving Merit. At the bottom edge of the medal is the date **MDCCCXI** (1801)

Weight:

- Gold Medal: Unknown
- Type I Silver Medal: 26.5 grams
- Type II Silver Medal: 17.9 grams

Size: All medals are 42 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold and Silver

Variations:

- **Type I Medal:** As described
- **Type II Medal:** The same as described above except the silver medal weight is 17.9 grams

Designer: Johann Nepomuk Wirt

Manufacturer: Vienna Hauptmunzampt (Mint Imperial Mint)

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: 40 mm wide Carmen Red

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Commemoration and Merit Medal for Dalmatians
(Erinnerungs und Verdienstmedaille für Dalmatien)



Silver Dalmatian Commemoration Medal





Ecclesiastic Merit Cross (Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



Date Issued:

Gold Ecclesiastic Cross: November 23, 1801-1859

Silver Ecclesiastic Cross: November 23, 1801 –1880

Note: For information on crosses issued from 1848-1918 See Decorations

Reason Issued: To recognize distinguished wartime service by military Field Chaplains which involved personal sacrifice and or bravery while ministering to or inspiring the troops under fire or at the front.

Classes or Types: Two

- Gold Ecclesiastic Cross
- Silver Ecclesiastic Cross

Interesting Facts:

- This is the first and oldest official Austrian decoration in the form of a cross
- The crosses were created at the suggestion of the Apostolic Field Vicar, Count Von Hohenwerth
- The crosses were first awarded for the wars with the French Republic in 1790
- This cross was authorized to replace previously awarded Military Honor Medals that although not exactly appropriate had been issued to military ecclesiastics for meritorious services.
- Those holding these previously issued decorations had to surrender them in order to receive the cross
- The gold crosses in order of precedence came after the Red Cross Decoration, First Class and before the Silver Ecclesiastic Crosses
- The silver crosses in order of precedence came after the gold cross and before the Decoration for Archduke Albrecht
- Upon the death of the recipient crosses were returned to the War Ministry (Oberstkammeramt)

Hallmarks:

- The Mark of Vinc Mayer and Sons
- The Mark of Friedrich Christian Rothe
- The mark of Josef Hollauer
- The Vienna Essay Office Mark





Ecclesiastic Merit Cross (Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



Design: A Latin Passion cross with trefoils at the ends and a soldered flat circular suspension eye on the top arm. The center medallion has an inscription in cursive lettering.

Obverse: The arms of the cross have a deep groove (2 mm) inside the edge which follows the contour of the cross. A second finer and shallower outline lies within the first. In the center of the cross is a 20 mm round, applied medallion with an edge in the same material as the cross. The medallion is enameled blue with an inscription in the same metal as the cross. The inscription reads **PIUS / MERITIS**. Translation: Pius Merit, in script in two lines.

Reverse: The reverse of the cross including the center medallion is the same as the obverse.

Weight:

- Gold Ecclesiastic Cross: 17 grams
- Silver Ecclesiastic Cross: 20.5 grams

Size: 53-58 mm long and 44-50 mm wide with a 17-20 mm in diameter center medallion. The width of the arms is 8 mm while the width of the trefoils is 16 mm

Type of Material: Gold, silver and enamel

Variations:

- Gold Cross Type I: as described above. This type cross was issued from 1801 to 1860
- Gold Cross Type II: as described above except the center medallion is enameled white.
- Gold Cross Type III: As described above but with the inscription is in block letters. This type cross was issued from 1860 to 1918
- Type I Silver Cross: The same as the gold cross but in silver. This type cross was issued from 1801 to 1860
- Silver Cross Type II: as described above except the center medallion is enameled white
- Type III Silver Cross: The same as Type I except that the script on the center medallion is in block letters. This type cross was issued from 1860 to 1918

Designer: Josef Hollauer

Manufacturer:

- Vinc Mayer and Sons
- Friedrich Christian Rothe

Number Issued:

- Gold Cross: 11 from 1801 to 1847
- Silver Cross: 55 from 1801 to 1911 (some portion of this number was issued from 1801 to 1847 but the exact number is unknown to the author)





Ecclesiastic Merit Cross
(Geistliches Verdienstkreuz)



Case: A block simulated leather case with a white silk inner lid which often has the maker's logo. The lower portion of the case is black felt.

Ribbon: A strait 40 mm wide white ribbon with three 8 mm red stripes which are 4 mm apart

Attachments: None

Miniature: Miniatures of this cross are known to exist

Gold Ecclesiastic Merit Cross Recipients:

Campaign in France, 1794 (Retroactive award)

- Cesar Czeuker
- Anton Sicherer

Campaign in France, 1797 (Retroactive award)

- Karl von Knebelsberg
- Johann Putscher
- Michael Rapp

Campaign in France, 1799 (Retroactive award)

- Josef Hotze
- Johann Kovalik

Campaign in France, 1809

- Maximilian Svob, Prince von Somerau

Battle of Aspern, 1809

- Bernard Hroinatter

Battle of Kulm, 1813

- Josef Nagy

Campaign in France, 1814

- Karl Grohmann

Note: See decorations for recipients after 1814





Commemoration Medal for the Officers of the Prague Encampment
(Ehrenmedaille für die Offiziere des Prager Truppenlagers)



Date Issued: 1804

Reason Issued: To honor the officers of the Bohemian Legion when the emperor visited on the occasion of their demobilization in 1804

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: This medal was issued as a wearable medal and as a table medal.

Hallmarks: None known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and an eye attached to the top through which the ribbon passes.

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Franz facing to the viewers right and the inscription **FRANZ . II. ROM. KAI. KON. ZU. HUN. UND. BOH. ERZH.ZU.OEST.** Translation: Franz II Roman Emperor, King of Hungary and Bohemia, Archduke of Austria.

Reverse: A depiction of Emperor Franz II on horseback reviewing the troops on parade. Around the upper half of the medal is inscribed: **IM FREIDEN MILD ZUM KAMPFE STETS GERUSTET.** Translation: Always armed and ready to fight. Below the image in three lines is inscribed: **UÜBUNGSLAGER / BEI PRAG. /1804.** Translation: Training camp near Prague, 1804.

Weight: 14.3 grams

Size: 39.5 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gilded silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Prague Mint

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Half white and half red

Attachments: None known

Miniature: None known

